

*Foxboro Council on Aging and Human Services
Board Meeting November 17, 2011*

Present: Chairperson Joanne Pratt, Director Vicki Lowe, Vivian Pitts, Lloyd Gibbs, Wendy Haney, Elaine Biggieri, and Ann Alibrandi

Absent/Excused: Jean Bonneau, Jerry Norwood, Colin Haney and Ed O'Leary ex-officio

Meeting called to order at 5:00

Minutes of October 20, 2011 Accepted as amended

Budget: We had to replace both hot water heaters this week. Even with this big ticket item (+\$1000) we are still doing well with our spending in the Operating Budget. We have no costs incurred with the storm. Pam worked on Sunday but took another day off so there was no additional salaries expense. The budget for next year is due on November 23rd.

Director's Report: The October snow storm has taken up a lot of our time and energy. The staff all worked with their coats on because we had no heat light or power. They used the 2 emergency hard wire jacks and personal cell phones to reach out to people. Ken and Noreen checked in on at risk people not reachable by phone. Ray & Bill checked on people and provided shopping trips once stores were opened. Everyone went 'over and beyond'. Kevin had offered his office in town hall for employees to be where there was heat, but he only had his phone and staff felt they could accomplish more here. We are on the list for a generator. Vicki attended the Storm After Action meeting. It was decided there that the town will create an emergency management fund and all capitol items will be requested out of that budget. The After Action report reviews lessons learned so we can work on plans to improve our response if there is another power outage or public emergency. The danger to seniors in a power loss situation is horrendous

Vicki advised us that some seniors were reluctant to leave their homes and apartment. There was some discussion by the board members of the Friends buying generators for the future. Laura Bitan who was a emergency help worker during the blackout will attend the next board meeting to give her input and suggestion for emergency help for seniors in the event of future blackouts.

The Town Manager, Kevin Paicos, has gotten approval from the Selectmen to have seniors and some low income people to get their brush removed by the town. We are maintaining a list that we are faxing to the Highway Department to prioritize these residents for brush removal. Highway, has told Vicki that they do not have a timeframe as to when they will get to these homes. If there are frail seniors we will try to help get volunteers to help get the brush curbside.

Senator Timilty will have a coffee hour on Tuesday, 11-29 @ 9:30. Some people have said they want to talk to him about bills before the legislature about public utilities, rebates for lost service time. They will be available to answer any questions.

Kevin has had department heads attend 2 team building meetings. One of the discussions was about the tremendous town response to those in need during the storm. It was decided that at the beginning of the special town meeting there will be recognition of these efforts.

Invensys had their day of volunteering. It coincided with a day a local church was going to help seniors with yard clean up. The church pulled out at the last minute due to the storm, so the Invensys people were able to help those clients who were expecting help. No word on the status of our railings for back door.

TRIAD had their Yellow Dot event with 56 seniors signing up for the program. Dots and envelopes were distributed yesterday. In January TRIAD will have Tony McLeish from the NCS office at the monthly meeting. Tony will have a laptop and will be able help people register for the Reverse 911.

Our last supper club was on 11/3. This program was a big success. Our program will resume in the spring to insure daylight driving for those attending.

There will be a new video lecture series that we will start in January. It has been well received at other COAs. At our DONs (Directors of Norfolk county) meeting we have agreed to create a sharing library to help maximize our resources.

We have 2 board members who still have not completed the Ethics course. Please check with Elaine. She can set you up on a computer and get you confirmation certificate after you complete the exam. We must have these in ASAP.

Ken is taking the evening appointment for Noreen. The October Human Service report received. Some of the Board members have attended already The Darkness to Light Program others have signed up for next Thursday.

The Veterans Party was a great social event a large group attended and the program was well received.

Old Business: There 35 people going on the trip to San Antonio. The committee is trying to book an overnight trip to Tanglewood. The committee is also looking into a trip to New York City for next fall.

The Friends bake sale was a success. Thanks to St. Mary's lending their hall. This is always not only a money maker but a social event for the pie makers. Some of the pies will be used for the COA Christmas Party.

There was discussion of the complying too the rules that employees of the town could not collect moneys for the Friends. All decided this was the Friends issue to solve.

New Business: Vicki said everyone was looking forward to the Christmas Party on December 1, at Benjamins, the COA Holiday Party December 8th at which apple pie and ice cream will be served and December 15th the Pops trip is run by the Friends.

Tenney advised us that HESSCO was trying to raise money for grab bars and that they had \$5,000 grant from the Dedham Bank. She also advised us that the HESSCO will be sponsoring a road race on March 17th to raise funds.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted

Ann Alibrandi